

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

339233



TO : Fred N. Rubel, Chief  
Emergency Response & Inspection Branch

FROM : Michael V. Polito  
Emergency Response & Inspection Branch

SUBJECT: <sup>DUANE</sup> ~~Duane~~ Marine Corporation, Perth Amboy, New Jersey

DATE: May 22, 1979

## Background

On Friday, May 11, 1979, this office received a call from Mr. David Thompson of the News Tribune reporting that thousands of barrels of chemical waste were being stored at the Duane Marine Company. These barrels were allegedly being stored stacked some three high. Some of these barrels were reported leaking. A copy of the spill report sheet is attached.

As per your direction, I immediately responded to Staten Island, 6200 Amboy Avenue, to investigate the barrel storage site. At this site, formerly occupied by Duane Marine, I only found a Baptist Church.

Upon return to Edison, I contacted the News Tribune reaching an associate of Mr. Thompson, Mr. Tom Rosenthal. Mr. Rosenthal advised me that the barrel storage site was located on Washington Street in Perth Amboy. He advised that this facility was operating even though the facility's temporary operating authorization had expired. Mr. Rosenthal also advised that he experienced certain adverse affects from vapors he was exposed to when he visited the Duane Marine facility.

I then called NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Solid Waste, Mr. Ronald Buchanan. Mr. Buchanan was not in but Mr. Mike Rosenberg handled the call. Mike was aware of the facility and felt that it did not present the hazard and concern described by the News Tribune reporters. He told me that the facility was told by his department to reduce the number of drums at the site, and upon completion of this task, they would be issued a new operating authorization.

On Monday, I received the attached note from you directing me to follow-up this report with the News Tribune and Buchanan (Attachment 2).

## Site Visit

On Monday, May 14th, I visited the site accompnied by Paul Elliot and performed an SPCC site inspection, meeting with Mr. Lecarreux, President of Duane Marine and Mr. Vincent S. Polestino, Administrative Officer.



I asked for and did receive a copy of a Professional Engineer Certified SPCC plan dated May 9, 1978. Mr. Lecarreux in response to my inquiry indicated that the facility initiated the storage of oil at the facility in January 1977. Subsequent to this report, I shall review and report on the adequacy of their SPCC plan and conformance to the requirements of 40 CFR 112.

The facility is located at 26 Washington Street, Perth Amboy, at the site of the old General Cable plant. Attachments 3 and 4 are maps showing the location of the facility. The facility is located on the shores of the Arthur Kill, with facility drainage flowing directly from the facility to the Kill.

At the site I observed some 2000-3000 barrels stacked on the average three high. Although a complete list was not available, Mr. Lecarreux advised that the barrels contained perchloroethylene, waste oils, adhesives, paint solids, waste solvents and solid industrial residues. Most of the drums appeared in good condition relative to the drum conditions I observed at Pollution Abatement Services and Chemical Control Corporation. These drums were generally stored in area "1" of the site sketch (Attachment 5).

The area south of the eastern-most drum storage area did not have curbing. Surface runoff from both drum storage areas could flow via this pathway to the shoreline thence to the Arthur Kill. Spills from the drums would contaminate this water and become a pollution source.

There were empty drums stacked sidewise, not capped, containing the residue of past contents stored within 50 feet of the water exposed to the elements. About 100 of these drums were stored in area "2" of the site sketch.

Waste oils and liquids are stored in an approximate 250,000 gallon tank and three 5000 gallon tanks located within a concrete diked area (area "3" of the site sketch). If a tank truck were to spill oil, this oil would flow out to Washington Street, thence east toward the Arthur Kill. In fact, sheen was actually observed flowing via this route.

Vehicular and equipment parking was located at areas "5" and "6" of the site sketch.

I questioned Mr. Lecarreux concerning any discharges he may have and his NPDES permit for discharge. Mr. Lecarreux advised that his facility does treat certain wastes, and that these treated wastes go directly to the Perth Amboy Sewage Treatment Plant. The treatment he said he performs is chemical precipitation and neutralization.

During my site visit, I did not observe any special dedicated treatment facilities. Treatment is performed in the three 5000 gallon tanks within the dike area and non-dedicated available containers.

Nevertheless, because of uncontrolled facility drainage, the adherence to the requirements of the NPDES program and solid waste regulations should be reviewed.

Mr. Lecarreux did give me a copy of his Temporary Operating Authorization which expired on April 30, 1979. This permit is enclosed (Attachment 6).

After the inspection and as per the direction of the Division Director, I made contact with Jeff Zelikson, Deputy Division Director of Water Division, and Meyer Scolnick, Deputy Division Director of the Enforcement Division, briefing them of my observations at Duane Marine.

An action plan was drafted with Mr. Zelikson. Information concerning these conversations as well as other related conversations were submitted to you via carbon copies of Record of Telephone Communication.

On Thursday, May 17th, I again visited the facility, took a series of photographs and discussed my preliminary findings with Lecarreux. It was agreed that I would advise Mr. Lecarreux of my recommendations and meet with him and his professional engineer to institute immediate corrections to, and implementation of, his SPCC plan.

These discussions and timeliness of subsequent implementation will be used to determine the facility's good faith compliance efforts. Mr. Lecarreux, it must be noted, showed me everything I wanted to see and did answer all my questions.

#### Attachments

CC: B. Metzger  
J. Zelikson  
M. Scolnick